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CLAIMS

1. A lead fixation tool comprising:
a proximal portion having a tapered passage therethrough; and
a distal portion having a channel in substantially axial alignment with the passage and having a lead pin engagement mechanism.
2. The lead fixation tool of claim 1, wherein the proximal portion and the distal portion form an integral housing.
3. The lead fixation tool of claim 1, wherein the proximal portion and the distal portion are rotatably coupled.
4. The lead fixation tool of claim 3, further comprising a bearing, wherein the bearing couples the distal portion and the proximal portion.
5. The lead fixation tool of claim 4, further comprising a rotation indicator.
6. The lead fixation tool of claim 5, wherein the rotation indicator includes:
a resilient arm having an actuator; and
a detent, wherein rotation of the distal portion relative to the proximal portion causes the actuator to engage the detent and provide a signal.
7. The lead fixation tool of claim 6, wherein the signal is audible.
8. The lead fixation tool of claim 6, here the signal is a tactile sensation.
9. The lead fixation tool of claim 1, further comprising a handle depending from the distal portion.
10. The lead fixation tool of claim 1, wherein the lead pin engagement mechanism further includes an interference clamp.

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11. The lead fixation tool of claim 10, wherein the interference clamp is axially aligned with the passage.
12. The lead fixation tool of claim 11, wherein the interference clamp is C-shaped.
13. A lead fixation tool comprising:
 - means for gripping a lead; and
 - means for aligning the lead with a passageway.
14. A tool comprising:
 - means for receiving a stylet;
 - means for receiving a lead aligned with the means for receiving the stylet; and
 - means for gripping the lead.
15. The tool of claim 14, further comprising:
 - means for indicating a rotation of the tool.
16. The tool of claim 15, wherein the means for indicating rotation indicate rotation of a first portion of the tool relative to a second portion of the tool.
17. A lead fixation tool comprising:
 - a proximal portion having a guide passage disposed therethrough, wherein the guide passage includes a tapered portion having an opening and a lumen interface; and
 - a distal portion having a connector channel that is axially aligned with the guide passage;
 - an engagement collar disposed within the connector channel that is configured for gripping and axially aligned with the guide passage.
18. The fixation tool of claim 17, further comprising a handle depending from the distal portion.

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19. The fixation tool of claim 17, further comprising a gripping surface disposed on the proximal portion.
20. The fixation tool of claim 17, wherein the engagement collar is a resilient C-shaped clamp.
21. The fixation tool of claim 17, wherein the proximal portion is rotatably coupled with the distal portion.
22. The fixation tool of claim 21, wherein the engagement collar is coupled with the proximal portion.
23. The fixation tool of claim 17, further comprising a rotation indicator.
24. The fixation tool of claim 23, wherein the rotation indicator includes:
 - a resilient arm having an actuator; and
 - a detent, wherein rotation of the distal portion relative to the proximal portion causes the actuator to engage the detent and provide a signal.
25. The lead fixation tool of claim 24, wherein the signal is audible.
26. The lead fixation tool of claim 24, wherein the signal is a tactile sensation.
27. A lead fixation tool comprising:
 - a housing having a generally circular cross section, the housing including a proximal portion and a distal portion, wherein the proximal portion and the distal portion are axially aligned;
 - a guide passage for receiving stylet and extending between an opening in the proximal portion to a lumen interface, wherein the guide passage tapers from a larger diameter at the opening to a narrower diameter;
 - a lead receiving channel disposed within the distal end for receiving at least a portion of a connector assembly of a lead;

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a connector pin channel disposed within the lead receiving channel for receiving a connector pin of the connector assembly and axially aligning the connector pin with the lumen interface; and

an engagement collar defining the connector pin channel and configured to grip the connector pin.

28. The lead fixation tool of claim 27, further comprising a handle depending from the distal portion in a plane that is perpendicular to an axis of rotation of the tool.

29. The lead fixation tool of claim 27, further comprising a gripping surface disposed over at least a portion of an exterior of the proximal portion.

30. The lead fixation tool of claim 29, wherein the gripping surface includes a plurality of ridges.

31. The lead fixation tool of claim 27, further comprising a directional indicator for indicating a direction of rotation to affect lead implantation.

32. The lead fixation tool of claim 27, wherein the proximal portion is rotatable relative to the distal portion.

33. The lead fixation tool of claim 32, further comprising a bearing forming an interconnection between the proximal portion and the distal portion.

34. The lead fixation tool of claim 32, further comprising a rotational indicator.

35. The lead fixation tool of claim 34, wherein the rotational indicator includes:

a resilient arm having an actuator; and

a detent, wherein rotation of the distal portion relative to the proximal portion causes the actuator to engage the detent and provide a signal.

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36. The lead fixation tool of claim 35, wherein the resilient arm is coupled with the proximal portion and the detent is formed in the distal portion.
37. The lead fixation tool of claim 36, further comprising a window disposed on the distal portion that permits visual observance of the actuator engaging the detent.
38. The lead fixation tool of claim 35, wherein the signal is audible.
39. The lead fixation tool of claim 35, wherein the signal is a tactile sensation.
40. The lead fixation tool of claim 27, wherein the guide passage is configured to receive a portion of a handle of the stylet.
41. The lead fixation tool of claim 27, wherein the housing is aligned parallel to the connector pin during rotation of the tool.
42. A method of manipulating a lead comprising:
 inserting a lead connector of a lead having a lumen opening into a distal portion of a fixation tool that grips the lead connector and aligns the lumen opening with a guide passage disposed within a proximal portion of the fixation tool;
 inserting a stylet through the proximal portion of the fixation tool and into the lumen opening; and
 rotating the fixation tool to cause rotation of an active fixation lead tip coupled with the lead.
43. The method of claim 42, wherein rotating includes rotating the proximal portion relative to the distal portion.
44. The method of claim 42, wherein the fixation tool remains parallel to the lead connector during rotation of the tool.